

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig 10B. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Figs. 10B. The following changes have been made to Fig. 10B. The symbol showing linearly polarized light of 0° has been corrected in two places.

Attachment: Replacement sheet
 Annotated sheet showing changes

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated August 9, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Fig. 10B has been amended.

Claim 1 is hereby amended. Accordingly, claims 1-15 and 33-58 are currently pending. Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 33-58 and the indication that claims 6-13 contain allowable subject matter. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to Fig. 10B. The suggested corrections have been made, and a new drawing sheet and an annotated drawing sheet are attached hereto. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0047965 to Suzuki ("Suzuki"). Claims 3, 4, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki in view of U.S. Patent No. 2002/0135719 to Moon ("Moon"). Claims 1-5, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Moon in view of U.S. Patent No. 2003/0086038 to Okumura ("Okumura").

The rejection of claims 1-5, 14, and 15 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-5, 14, and 15 are allowable over the cited references in that these claims recite a combination of elements including, for example, "a layer of liquid crystal material arranged between the first and second orientation films, wherein the layer of liquid crystal material includes a plurality of liquid crystal molecules having a substantially symmetrical bend structure orientation about a mid-point between the first and second orientation films." Suzuki, Moon, nor Okumura teaches, either singly or in combination, at least these features of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 14, and 15 are allowable over the various cited references.

Neither Suzuki or Okumura teach a “substantially symmetrical bend structure orientation about a mid-point . . .” As stated by the Examiner, both Suzuki and Moon have liquid crystals perpendicular to the substrates, so they cannot teach the symmetrical bend structure orientation of the claimed invention. Further, Moon fails to cure this deficiency of Suzuki and Moon. Accordingly, claims 1-5, 14, and 15 are allowable over the cited references.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 9, 2006

By 
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Attachments

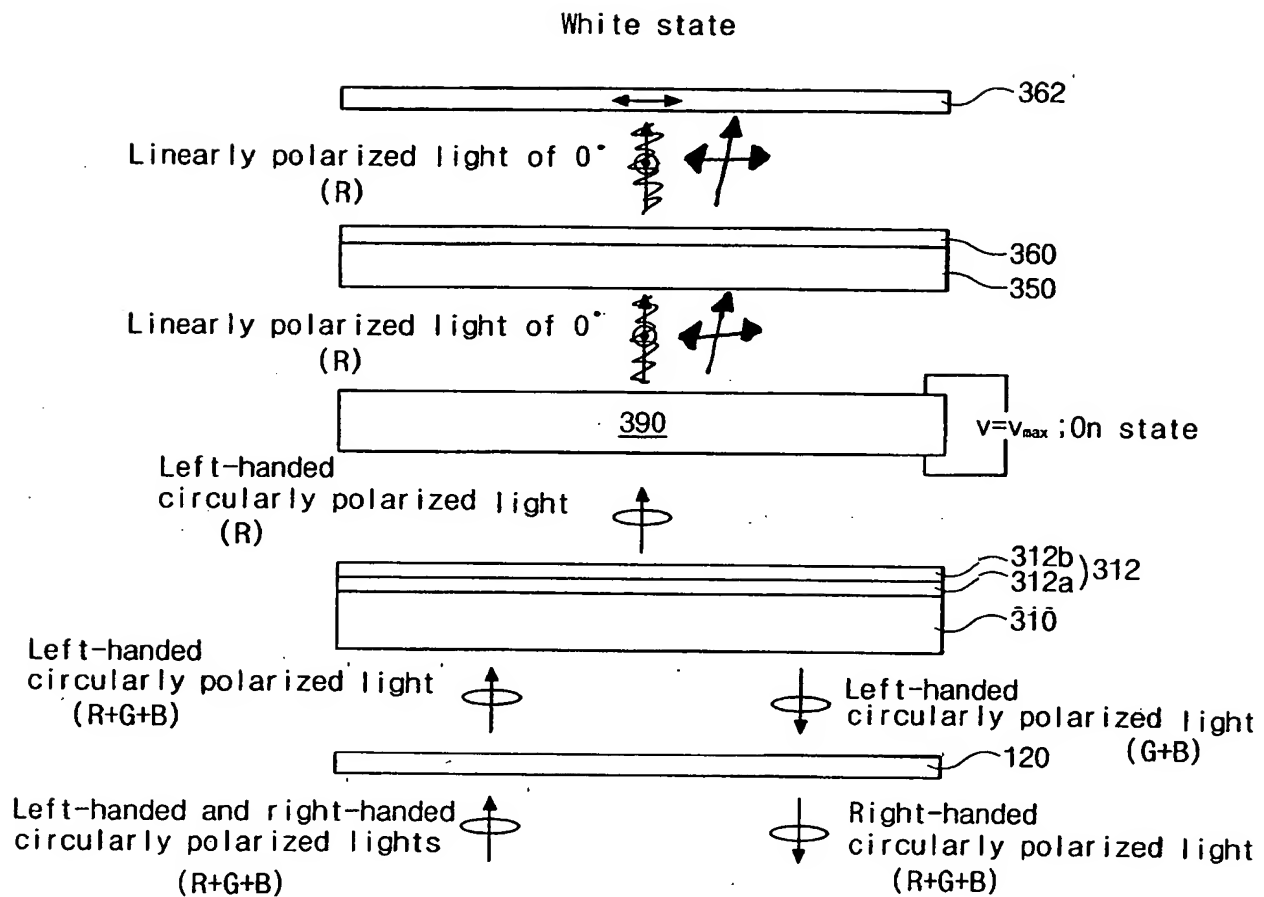


FIG. 10B